

PROTECT YOUR WATERS FROM THE **GREEN MONSTER**



GIANT SALVINIA (*Salvinia molesta*) is considered the world's worst weed and is wreaking havoc on Louisiana's waterways, including the Red River and its tributaries. Giant salvinia is an invasive plant native to Brazil that does not belong in our waters. This aquatic demon is capable of doubling in biomass every 7 to 10 days. Due to its rapid growth rate, giant salvinia is not only capable of destroying a fishery but it also impedes access, diminishes property value, and outcompetes native plant species that are beneficial to fish and wildlife.



Giant salvinia is an aquatic floating fern native to South America

YOU CAN HELP

Giant salvinia is very difficult and expensive to control. Giant salvinia is a small plant with terrible consequences. The most common way that giant salvinia is introduced into a new waterbody is by hitching a ride on a boat trailer. Protect your waters by cleaning your boat, trailer, prop, tackle, decoys, live wells, any place that giant salvinia could potentially hide before launching in another waterbody. Protect your favorite waters by preventing the spread of invasive species. Please make others aware of the threat to our natural resources.



LDWF spray crews use herbicide to combat giant salvinia on Lake Bistineau

LOOK OUT FOR THIS INVADER

Giant salvinia is a green aquatic fern that floats on the waters surface. Mature plants have leaves $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long that are covered in fine hairs. These hairs form a waterproof barrier that make the plant resistant to herbicide. Long root-like structures dangle below the leaves in the water. Giant salvinia is capable of forming dense mats that can be several feet thick and stretch over hundreds of acres.



Giant salvinia is most commonly transported to new waterbodies by boat trailers

For more information on giant salvinia and other aquatic invasive species contact Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (225) 765-2328 or www.wlf.louisiana.gov